"WHERE ARE THE NINE?"

THE chaplain of a regiment on the western front, on his rounds before the fighting ceased, met an officer of the same regiment who seemed to have something on his mind.

"I think I am due to make you a confession, padre," he said at last with an embarrassed laugh. "Two nights ago, during a heavy barrage, our telephone lines were shot out. I found I had to get over to the major's command post, three or four hundred yards away. As I looked out, it seemed to me the shells were dropping along the road like a Western hailstorm, but I had to go just the same. I don't mind telling the world that I was scared good and plenty.

"I hadn't said a prayer since I was a little boy, and never expected to say another, but as I went I found myself praying to God as naturally as if I had been praying all my life long. Someway I got over and someway I got back, although it didn't seem possible that anyone could do either. It wasn't until then that it came over me how instinctively and how mightily I had prayed during that shelling, and I said to myself that there was only one way about it: if I prayed like thunder when I was being shelled, I should be a mighty low-down thing if I stopped praying just because I *wasn't* being shelled. It also seemed to me that the decent thing to do was to own up; and so I made it a point to tell you that now every night I'm saying my prayers."

"God bless you; and keep it up!" said the chaplain.

As he went his way the chaplain thought of the ten healed lepers, only one of whom came to give thanks. "Just about every man in France has had something of that same experience," he said to himself. "Why don't they *all* remember it afterwards?"

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